



Photo by Senior Airman Brian Merrifield, 8th FW/PA

Workin' out

Tech. Sgt. Don Simmons, 8th Operations Group, works out his upper body at the Wolf Pack Fitness Center. The fitness center hours during the 8th Fighter Wing "test week" in support of night flying operations, are Monday-Thursday, 4:30 a.m.-1:30 a.m., Friday, 4:30 a.m.-midnight and Saturday-Sunday, 8 a.m.-10 p.m. The test week begins Sunday.



Kunsan Volleyball Standings

(Current as of April 17)

Game Schedule

American League

Monday

6 p.m.

SFS vs. CES (A)

7 p.m.

SUPS vs. SVS

8 p.m.

35th FS vs. MSS (B)

National League

Tuesday

6 p.m.

MSS (A) vs. MXS

7 p.m.

CES (B) vs. 80th FS

8 p.m.

OSS vs. TRANS

9 p.m.

ARMY vs. CPTF

American League

1. CES – 5-0
2. SFS – 5-1
3. SVS – 1-4
4. SUPS – 3-2
5. CS – 2-3
6. MSS (B) – 1-4
7. MDG – 1-4

National League

1. MXS – 5-0
2. TRANS – 4-1
3. CPTF – 3-2
4. CES (B) – 3-2
5. ARMY – 1-3
6. OSS – 1-3
7. MSS (A) – 1-4
8. 80th FS – 1-4

Sports Chatter



Sports Chatter
By Brian Merrifield

Hey batter, hey batter, swing batter! Here we go! It's that time of year again; it's softball season. Grab the cleats and glove and head out to the softball diamond for what promises to be a lot of cheap talk and some decent action.

A lot of teams will compete for the coveted base softball championship but only one team will emerge as base champion. Which team will it be? Everyone has a pre-season favorite and a prediction of who will topple the defending champion 8th Security Forces Defenders.

With the pre-season softball tournament beginning April 30 it will give teams a chance to size one another up, remove the winter rust, boot a few routine grounders and think up excuses before the regular season begins May 7. There's no doubt about it, we should know early on who will be the players and who will be the player haters.

There is already a lot of trash talking from competing squadrons. You almost have to turn on your windshield wipers to get through it all. But, once tournament time rolls around, we'll have a clear view of who are the pretenders and who are the contenders.

One thing's for sure, opening day will have its fair share of show-boaters in \$100 baseball cleats, \$400 super-titanium bats geared to transform "Punch and Judy" hitters into warning track sluggers as well as those wearing the ever stylish and only popular in states such as Hawaii and Florida, white socks with sandals.

You know the ones, they are the Mark McGwires or Sammy Sosas of the base intramural softball circuit. However, unlike McGwire or Sosa, they lack the tater power and despite swinging for the fences, they pop out every time. But hey, they look cool doing it.

My favorites are the classic out-of-shape, old-school softball players made in the image of Babe Ruth, John Kruk, Cecil Fielder or even David Wells. The people who go up to the plate wearing their high school cleats, a jersey with a chili dog stain that doubles as their intramural bowling shirt and a gut big enough to compete on the sumo circuit. You think, easy out.

Then "easy out" jacks the first pitch over the fence. Yard ball, 1-0. You don't believe me. You watch, it will happen. And when an out-of-shape bum hits one out, stand up and yell. Support the fat kid. Hey, they give us all hope.

That's what's great about intramural softball. It's where dreams are made. Just remember, the jersey doesn't make the player. Neither does having your own bat, glove, the most expensive shoes, the matching pants and even the matching hat. However, the unexpected can always happen, especially when you order team jerseys from downtown. The Mission Support Squadron or MSS becomes MISS as in "we can't miss" in winning this year's softball crown. I warned you, the sports chatter and trash talk has begun. Let the games begin!

There are so many things you can do this summer but why choose any of those other things. Being a bleacher bum or competing for the base softball championship is where it's at. The more spectators the better. So slap on the sunscreen, fire up the grill and watch the towering home runs. It's going to be a year of great plays, humorous errors, and of course, an opportunity to learn about the latest and greatest in sports fashion.

Who thought softball could be this exciting? Support your squadron. Men, women, tall, short, big feet, small hands, it doesn't matter. Anyone can play! You don't have to be a super-talented athlete to play softball. You just have to know how to have fun. Come out and showcase your skills. Game on!

Sports Briefs

Tae Kwon Do

Tae Kwon Do classes at the Health and Wellness Center are Monday-Friday 11 a.m. to noon, 7-8 p.m. and

Saturdays 1-2 p.m.

Prices are \$30 monthly for the class. Other fees are also required. For more information call 782-7879.

Step aerobics

Step aerobics classes are offered every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.